

VIDEO: “TOLLING IN VIRGINIA”

VIDEO: Montage of photos: Family watching a black and white TV, 1960s hippie putting an album on a record player, 1970s disco dancers, and man in suit talking on 1990s old school cell phone

AUDIO: NARRATOR: Travel back in time with me for a minute. From flower power, to disco dancing, to yuppie excess, our culture has changed a lot over the years—and technology has changed right along with it.

VIDEO: iPhone technology

VIDEO: Old videos of toll roads

AUDIO: Take toll roads for example. They’ve been constantly evolving. And although it may seem hard to imagine, someday soon, technology will allow you to drive along a toll road and pay your tolls without ever stopping at—or even seeing—a toll booth.

VIDEO: (playing behind Super Title) Montage of different toll roads: Dulles toll road and Richmond: Powhite Extension, RMA, and Chesapeake Expressway

AUDIO: In this DVD, we will take you on a brief tour of toll roads and toll collection methods in Virginia.

VIDEO: “THE HISTORY Of The Toll Road”

VIDEO: Pictures of old-style vehicles and historical toll roads.

AUDIO: By the 1940s, toll collection technology began to progress, allowing motorists to pay toll attendants with punch card toll tickets.

VIDEO: Footage of coin and electronic tolling methods. Smart Tag footage: Logo, transponder and electronic toll lanes.

AUDIO: In the 1980s & 90s, toll collection technology experienced a breakthrough with the emergence of electronic toll collection. In 1996, Smart Tag was introduced in Virginia. Motorists using Smart Tag didn’t have to worry about having cash on hand, because electronic readers automatically deducted tolls from their accounts when passing through toll lanes.

VIDEO: Graphic of state of Virginia outline with Smart Tag logo. Logo changes to E-ZPass, and map dissolves into graphic of map of US East Coast.

AUDIO: Smart Tag later became known as E-ZPass, joining a multi-state electronic toll network allowing for the seamless use of one tag, up and down the East Coast.

VIDEO: “PRESENT DAY TOLLING”

AUDIO: Present day tolling in Virginia offers a variety of toll options that connect commuters with wherever they need to go.

VIDEO: E-ZPass toll lanes.

AUDIO: The first is Electronic Tolling, which is still thriving today because it's convenient and easy to use.

VIDEO: Male driver affixing transponder to his car windshield

AUDIO: Virginia motorists simply affix their E-ZPass electronic transponders to their windshields, so they can pass through the specially marked toll lanes without worrying about coming to a complete stop to pay.

VIDEO: Close up of driver's E-ZPass transponder as he comes towards the toll plaza

VIDEO: “EXPRESS LANE With A Cash Option”

AUDIO: Express Lane with a cash lane option is the tolling method most used in Virginia today.

VIDEO: Helicopter shot of HOV and main lanes diverging

AUDIO: Express lanes are physically separated from the adjacent conventional plaza toll lanes, so that E-ZPass drivers can continue traveling slowly to pay the toll without stopping.

VIDEO: Montage of different toll roads: Dulles toll road, Richmond Powhite Extension, RMA and Chesapeake Expressway

AUDIO: Dulles Greenway and Dulles Toll Road—both in Northern Virginia—and Chesapeake Expressway in Hampton Roads, are examples of Express Lanes.

VIDEO: “OPEN ROAD TOLLING With A Cash Option”

AUDIO: Open Road or Highway Speed Tolling with a cash lane option is used in Virginia and nationwide.

VIDEO: Open Road Tolling with cash lane option footage

AUDIO: This method offers the choice of stopping to pay with cash at toll booths on the side of the road, or, if you use E-ZPass, to continue traveling at highway speeds under an overhead receiver.

VIDEO: Helicopter shot of traffic flowing freely on ORT w/ cash lane

AUDIO: In 2002, Pocahontas 895 opened south of Richmond as the first highway speed toll road in Virginia with a cash lane option.

VIDEO: “CURRENT TOLL ROAD Benefits“

AUDIO: What are the benefits of using today’s high-tech toll road options?

VIDEO: Ghost shot of toll plaza video, with Supers over it

VIDEO: List of toll road benefits (Better for environment/Proceeds improve transportation/Save money on gas)

AUDIO: Electronic tolling means you don’t have to come to a complete stop to pay a toll.

AUDIO: Because you don’t have to idle in toll plaza lines, it is better for the environment.

AUDIO: The proceeds can be used to improve transportation choices.

AUDIO: You save money on gas, since there’s no stopping when you use

VIDEO: Helicopter of traffic moving along toll roads

AUDIO: Today’s tolling methods are making big strides in keeping Virginia moving.

VIDEO: “WHERE TOLL ROADS Will Take Us In The Future”

AUDIO: In the future, toll roads will not only be a means of collecting revenues for the transportation system, but will also serve to manage congestion on the highway.

VIDEO: shot of highway from inside moving car, then changes to shot of heavy traffic congestion on highway.

AUDIO: Congestion happens when too many cars try to enter the highway at the same time.

VIDEO: Split screen: One side of screen: traffic visual of rice experiment; traffic backing up, then smooth flowing traffic. Other side: rice experiment (which shows what is depicted in audio)

AUDIO: Take this rice experiment for example. When the rice enters the funnel on the right, all at once—just like cars enter the highway during rush hour—the rice gets stuck, waiting for the rice ahead of it to slowly make its way through the funnel. However, when the rice paces itself through the funnel on the left, twice as many grains of rice flow freely through the funnel, while the rice on the right is still waiting in traffic. The toll roads of our future plan to keep cars moving by pacing the amount of cars on the road.

VIDEO: Computer animation of traffic moving along toll roads.

VIDEO: “CONGESTION Pricing”

AUDIO: Congestion pricing works by shifting discretionary rush-hour highway travel to other transportation modes or to off-peak periods. Tolls typically vary by time of day, or are based on demand, and are collected at highway speeds using electronic toll collection technology.

VIDEO: Computer animation of traffic movement, then changes to footage of Traffic Management Control center setting prices

AUDIO: Toll rates for different time periods may be set in advance, or they may be set dynamically, meaning they may increase or decrease every few minutes to ensure that lanes are used fully without a breakdown in traffic flow.

VIDEO: Graph of toll price increasing as traffic increases with image of cars traveling on the road in background

AUDIO: By removing just 5 percent of the vehicles from a congested roadway, traffic flows much more efficiently.

VIDEO: “HIGH OCCUPANCY TOLL (HOT) Lanes”

AUDIO: High Occupancy Toll lanes, or variable priced lanes, are a form of Congestion Pricing used all over the world.

VIDEO: Transurban High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes animation video, 4-way shot HOT lane options.

AUDIO: You are charged a variable amount based on the congestion level at the time. If traffic is heavy, the toll is high; if traffic is light, the toll is lower. The purpose is to move some peak-period traffic to lighter-traffic times. Soon HOT lane construction will begin on the I-495 corridor in Northern Virginia.

AUDIO: These HOT lanes will allow High Occupancy Vehicles, such as carpoolers, buses, and emergency vehicles, to use the lanes free of charge. However, solo drivers and low occupancy vehicles willing to pay a toll may also use them. You always have a choice.

VIDEO: “FUTURE TOLL ROAD Benefits”

AUDIO: What are the benefits of our future tolling options?

VIDEO: List of future toll road benefits (Reduces congestion/ Offers a reliable travel time/ Encourages ridesharing)

AUDIO: Reduces congestion in some toll lanes

AUDIO: Offers motorists reliable travel times

AUDIO: May encourage ridesharing

VIDEO: “CHOICES”

AUDIO: The choices we make on the road today will affect how we drive tomorrow.

VIDEO: Montage of transportation choices: bridge, Dulles Metro, VRE, helicopter shot toll road

AUDIO: So keep your eyes open to witness the evolution of tolling technology firsthand. And remember, the next time you take a toll road, you're not just getting to your destination a little faster. You're also investing in our future transportation network—helping our community get exactly where it needs to go.

VIDEO: Cut to same male driver in car, driving through tunnel; then dissolves to him driving on a bridge

VIDEO: Male driving on bridge shot dissolves to him driving on toll road, and finally dissolves to him driving on the open road

VIDEO: Close-up of open road through driver's windshield. Logo comes onto screen.

VIDEO: VDOT logo

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